Downfall of oil companies

2347. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the PSU oil companies are losing out to private oil companies;

(b) if so, the reasons for this downfall; and

(c) what remedial measures Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Government have granted the rights for marketing of transportation fuels to new companies in terms of the Government resolution of 08.03.2002. These companies have started commissioning retail outlets and sales at these retail outlets which are largely carved out of the sales of existing outlets of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

The provisional percentage market share of OMCs and private sector oil companies in respect of diesel, petrol, LPG, kerosene and all petroleum products during the period April—October, 2005 was as follows:

Product	Public Sector OMCs	Private Sector Oil Companies
Diesel	91.8	8.2
Petrol	96.5	3.5
LPG	96.6	3.4
Kerosene	100	0.0
All Products	83.4	16.6

(b) and (c) The Oil Marketing Companies have initiated the following steps to retain/enhance existing market shares:

(i) Setting up of retail out-lets at strategic locations.

(ii) Penetration of rural market for fuel and non-fuel marketing.

(iii) To enhance quality and assure quantity.

(iv) Retail outlets with multiple allied facilities and services.

Opposition to Introduction of bio-diesel

†2348. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of bio-diesel at present in the country and the target fixed for the year 2006;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.